

they had work on schedule that would allow them to keep that date. I think it is reasonable to assume that some of the work we have to do jointly will stretch out to meet the time frame that they are here rather than the time frame that we are here, and we need to be aware of that. We are still hoping for November 18.

The week after Thanksgiving, the week that starts on November 28 and ends on December 2, if we are still in session at the end of the month of November, we would not plan to work that week. Clearly, we do not plan to work Thanksgiving or the day after. If, in finishing this process up, November 19, November 20, November 21 would finish the process up, I would hate to suggest that we would not finish and get our work done, but certainly the November 28 to December 2 would be a date that I think he and I could right now announce to the Members that if they are planning family activities after Thanksgiving that even if we are still in session, we would not intend for that week to be a workweek.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his answer. I think that is very helpful for Members who are trying to plan.

Mr. Speaker, the PATRIOT Act, we were told that we might go to conference on that bill this week. That did not happen. Does the gentleman know when we anticipate perhaps going to conference on the PATRIOT Act?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, we are continuing to do work on getting ready for that conference. I would hope that that conference would occur at any time. I am confident that we will appoint conferees and have that conference completed before the law expires. So I think that in itself sets a fairly short deadline but would expect to see that happen in the near future as we thought it might even happen this week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his answer.

Reclaiming my time, on appropriations conference reports, prior to the Thanksgiving recess, can he tell us how many he anticipates might be ready, obviously realizing that the other body's actions are difficult to determine, but does he have any thoughts on what appropriations conference reports we might be considering prior to the November 18 date?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and would say that it is still our goal to get out of here, to get the session completed by the Thanksgiving recess. In that case we would have all the bills completed.

The Senate seems to have really gotten their appropriations process energized in a way that means a number of bills will soon be ready for conference. As the gentleman knows, three of the

bills have already been signed into law by the President. It is possible that we would have other additional conference reports next week.

I am not trying to anticipate too much here, but I think the most likely conference that might be completed next week would be the conference that we just appointed conferees to, the agriculture conference, and have that bill as a fourth bill that was completed. But the Senate work that allows us to address these bills one at a time, which I know we all believe is the best way to do this work, has finally reached a point that bears some likelihood that all of that could happen and hopefully will happen by November 18.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Lastly, we were expecting today to have a budget amendment, or an amended budget, on the floor today. That did not happen. He referenced it in his opening discussion of the schedule.

Does he expect that bill to come to the floor next week, and if so, does he expect it to call for reconciliation cuts above and beyond the \$35 billion that was in the original budget?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think I announced earlier that I did expect that bill to be on the floor next week. And in addition, the change in the approach to that measure would be that it would include not only a higher goal for savings in the mandatory programs, an issue we do not take up very often in the House. I think this would be the second time in 10 years we have looked at mandatory savings, but also to include a commitment to revisit the discretionary part of the budget sometime between now and the end of the process and to work with the administration on reconciliation as well as looking at the authority for programs that we did not fund in this Congress and in several cases have not funded for some time and eliminate the authority for perhaps as many as 95 or more programs that are receiving no funding.

□ 1230

All four of those items would be in the budget resolution that the Committee on the Budget would bring to the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2005, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

#### DEMOCRAT IRRESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, with the recent hurricanes on the gulf coast, it is heartwarming to witness the unity and the outpouring of support from all Americans.

It is a unity of purpose from all, except one group: Democrats in the House of Representatives. That is right.

Our Republican leadership is working valiantly to find resources to provide help for the displaced residents. The way to do that is to reopen the budget and identify savings elsewhere to pay for those new costs, and the Democrat leadership says, They won't get one Democrat vote.

Now, that is leadership. How sad.

Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to work together to solve problems. Democrats are stuck practicing the tired, old, petty, partisan politics of the past; and this is disappointing and irresponsible. America deserves more than obstruction from a once-proud party.

#### BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' misplaced budget priorities are actually shameful. They continue to be a reverse Robin Hood, slashing funds to safety net programs only to give more tax cuts to the wealthiest of Americans.

The budget reconciliation that we will talk about next week or the next week, whenever you guys can get your stuff together, proposes huge cuts in important programs that the poor and the working poor depend on day in and day out, such as \$15 billion in cuts in Medicaid programs; \$12.5 billion for student loans; and almost \$1 billion in cuts for food stamps. All of this while, and you would allow the richer to get even richer at the expense of helping those who need it the most, doing